

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification and claims, rejected claims 1, 9, 10 and 11 as obvious over Evans et al. U.S. Patent 7,213,054 B2 in view of Lowe et al, rejected claims 2 – 5, 7 and 8 as obvious over Evans et al. and Lowe in view of Dutcher U.S. Patent 6,021,496 A1, and rejected claim 6 as obvious over Evans et al. and Lowe in view of Win U.S. Patent 5,161,139 A1.

Specification Objection

Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended to replace “instance” with “context.” The specification describes that the same application context and the same data are accessed by different users without unloading or restarting. For instance, at paragraph [0017] provides that “Data as well as the overall application context is retained. By retaining the current status, different users can work with the same data in the same application context in quick succession.” At paragraph [0021], “This allows the user to end work on the data processing device without the following user having to restart the application or the operating system. This saves the new user the time that would have been taken up with the restart, since that user can simply carry on with the running application as soon as the authentication is complete.” At paragraph [0040], “However, if the new user has more rights than the previous user, depending on the previously defined settings, the previous application context including the user interface 81 with all data can be displayed again completely or another status can be defined, e.g., an expanded range of sensitive data or function modules can be made available from application programs 71, 73.”

Applicant submits that the replacement of the term “instance” in the claims eliminates the confusion over this term with the disclosed authentication instances, user switch instance, screen saver instance, etc.

Applicant submits that the objection is overcome.

Claim Objections

The changes suggested by the Examiner have been entered in the claims so that the objections are overcome.

35 USC §103(a)

The **Evans** reference discloses that the computer system provides multiple user logins where each user logs into a desktop after being authenticated. A plurality of separate and concurrent desktops and workspaces are provided within a shared computer (see col. 5, lines 26 – 27). The desktops may be switched but applications run within the context of the desktop and are completely separate from one another (see col. 5, lines 46 – 49).

Thus, even though several instances of the application may be running in the multi-user environment, the same instance of the application is not accessed by different users – which is consistent with the Examiner’s position.

The **Lowe et al.** reference provides instructions to the user’s of various Windows operating system versions to provide group user access to files and folders. The files and folders are only “shared” in that each user in a group can start an instance of a shared application or load an instance of data from a stored file into active memory. No teaching or suggestion is found that the users of a group is able to access an instance of the application started by another user or that data from a file loaded into active memory by one user is accessible by another user without unloading the data from the active memory.

The combination of **Evans** and **Lowe** do not result in the claimed invention. Claim 1 has been amended to provide that the sharing of the same instance of the accessible element occurs without unloading or restarting the accessible element. Claim 10 is also amended to claim access by the second user without unloading or restarting the accessible element. This and other features of the claims are not found in the combined teachings of the references and so the invention is non-obvious thereover.

Dutcher discloses a windows log on process. A clean up of the client system is described as dealing with user modifications to the user’s profile or added or deleted authentication locations, in other words maintenance tasks for the user’s account. The clean up discussion in the reference does not suggest that a different user having lesser rights should have screen information reduced when accessing the same context of an application or data. The reference does not disclose that the same instance, or context, of an application or data is accessed by different users without unloading or restarting the accessible element.

Win may disclose user logging but does not disclose use of a context of an accessible element without unloading or restarting.

A combination of the foregoing references does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. As such, the claims are non-obvious over the cited art, whether taken alone or in combination.

Additional Art

Applicant notes the references cited but not relied upon.

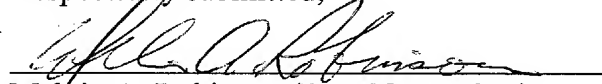
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the forgoing.

Deposit Account Information

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to account no. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,



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